“Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the
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</tbody>
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"at gives reality to the historic police" ~Sir Robert Peel
LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

RICK BLEICHNER

To: Pamela Reece, City Manager
Chris Koos, Mayor
Normal Town Council
Residents of the Town of Normal

On behalf of the staff of the Normal Police Department, I am pleased to present our 2019 annual report. The report includes a variety of statistical data, details regarding departmental services and highlights the organization's accomplishments throughout the year.

In 2019 the department responded to nearly 75,000 calls for service and saw reductions in index crimes and vehicle crashes. During the year the department continued to pursue enhancements through technology by expanding server storage for digital videos and beginning implementation for an Electronic Citation program. This past year the department was also successful in securing a reimbursement grant for over $61,000 from the State of Illinois to offset hardware costs for the Body Camera Project.
From a staffing perspective, 2019 proved to be a very busy year. Over the course of the year we celebrated the retirement of 5 staff members, with over 133 years of combined organizational experience. Limited availability of police academy seats early in the year created delays in the hiring of some staff positions, while some untimely injuries created several temporary staffing challenges. In addition, through our strong partnership with Unit 5 Schools, we successfully added 2 new officer positions to the School Resource Officer program. This addition allows us to staff each junior high and high school with a full-time resource officer. By years end the department successfully reached our full complement of staff through the strategic hiring and training of 9 new officers, 1 support staff and 3 part time parking enforcement positions.

With 2019 in the rear-view mirror, we are looking forward to 2020 and are excited about what the next year will bring. My staff and I greatly appreciate the strong support from the community, elected officials and city administration. I am extremely proud of the work of our staff and am honored to serve alongside them.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2019 Annual Report and find the materials to be informative.

Sincerely,

Rick Bleichner
Chief of Police
Town of Normal
MISSION STATEMENT

The Normal Police Department provides exceptional service, by embracing innovation and progressive techniques that make the Town of Normal a safe place to live, work and visit.

We build positive relationships through collaboration and we honor our profession by being accountable for our personal and professional conduct.

Building positive relationships
Committed to service excellence

The Normal Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Accreditation is a voluntary process that requires agencies to develop policies, procedures and practices that meet evidence based model standards for police departments. Accreditation is a system of audits, oversight, planning and policy development that provides the Chief with up to date information to make strategic decisions impacting the department.
CORE VALUES

SERVICE
Customer service is our highest priority. We provide excellent police services in a caring and professional manner.

INNOVATION
We are committed to the development of new ideas. We improve our professional law enforcement services through the use of technology and progressive crime fighting techniques.

COLLABORATION
We work closely with the community to build positive relationships through open communication, commitment and action. All members of the organization work as a team to enrich our department, increase our effectiveness and improve the services we provide.

HONOR
We conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner in all relationships with peers, superiors and subordinates. We are honest, truthful and respectful in our dealings with each other, and with those we serve.
The Administrative Offices of the Chief of Police are responsible for the oversight of all operations and services for the police department. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, policy development, strategic planning, auditing and budgeting. The offices are staffed by the Chief, two Assistant Chiefs and one office associate. The department is divided into two divisions, Operations and Support Services, which provide police services to the community.
The Normal Police Department is committed to providing quality, professional police services to the community in keeping with our mission and core values. The department dedicates a great deal of resources to recruitment, selection and retention of our staff. The department has 84 sworn officers, 9 full time and 7 part time civilian employees.

### Department Demographic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.48%</td>
<td>11.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>11.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.15%</td>
<td>77.77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of minority, full time, police employees - 9.90%
Staffing Updates

The department hired 8 new officers in 2019, a result of added positions in the School Resource Officer role as well as several retirements during the year.

New Officers

Ofc. John Gaffney
Feb. 11, 2019

Ofc. Abbigayle Marmion
May 19, 2019

Ofc. Zachary Boland
May 19, 2019

Ofc. Chad Olson
May 19, 2019

Ofc. Kyley Hepler
May 19, 2019

Ofc. Cory Phillips
Sept. 15, 2019

Ofc. Kyle McComber
Sept. 15, 2019

Ofc. Ronald Webb
Sept. 15, 2019
Retirements

5 employees retired in 2019, with a combined service total of over 133 years of service to the Town of Normal.

Ofc. Brian Hoskins
Jan 2019

Ofc. Deb Weir
April 2019

Ofc. Todd Weir
June 2019

Ofc. Greg Leipold
August 2019

Jackie Thomas
December 2019
The Patrol Division provides around the clock Police services to the community through 3 primary and 2 secondary shifts. The division also has a variety of specialized units that provide supplemental services, such as the Traffic, K9 and Problem Oriented Policing Units. Patrol officers collaborate with the community to solve issues of mutual concern through evidence-based tactics, to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents. They handle a variety of calls from neighborhood complaints, to traffic concerns, to crimes against persons. Officers work closely with our local law enforcement partners with a focus on community safety, while building positive relationships through daily contacts with residents, students and visitors to the community.

The Normal Police Department handled 73,953 calls for service in 2019 and completed 5,241 new incident reports. There were 16,053 calls from the public requesting officer assistance, and 57,900 calls from officer generated activity. The map below highlights public calls for assistance in each of the 4 patrol areas.

At a Glance...

- Top 5 Call Types:
  - 9-1-1 Hang-Up
  - Accident
  - Assist Other Agency
  - Lock-Out
  - Domestic
Traffic Crash Reporting

The Normal Police Department analyzes traffic crash data in an effort to reduce the occurrence and severity of crashes. This information is shared with the operations division, who look at ways to address areas of high crash occurrence through a combination of public education and enforcement details.

We are happy to report that traffic crashes declined in 2019 by 1.47%, and were nearly 6% below the 5 year average.

There were 1,407 traffic crashes reported in 2019, down 1.47% from this reported in 2018 and down 5.95% from the 5 year average.

2018-2019 Crash Comparison

- Street Crashes: 1,000 -1.21%
- Private Property: 407 -7.50%
- Pedestrian: 18 -14.29%
- Bicycle: 16 +23.08%

Accident Causes

- 11 Front to Rear
- 09 Parked Motor Vehicle
- 10 Turning (At Least One Vehicle)
- 15 Angle
- 06 Fixed Object
- 12 Sideswipe (Same Direction)
- 07 Other Object
- 16 Rear to Side
- 01 Pedestrian
- 02 Pedalcyclist
- 17 Rear to Rear
- 18 Rear to Front
- 14 Front to Front
- 13 Sideswipe (Opposite Direction)
- 04 Animal
- 05 Overturned
- 03 Train
- 08 Other Non-Collision
Location Analysis - The intersections with the most reported accidents continue to be monitored and receive proactive patrols to address violations that contribute to the cause and severity of traffic crashes.

**Top Intersection Related Crash Locations**

- MAIN / RAAB
- LINDEN / MULBERRY
- LANDMARK / COLLEGE
- KINGSLEY / HOVEY
- VETERANS / COLLEGE
- GREENBRIAR / FT JESSE
- VETERANS / PARKWAY PLAZA
- VETERANS / VON MAUR
- LINDEN / VERNON
- MAIN / COLLEGE
- VETERANS / FT JESSE

**Top Personal Injury Accident Locations**

- MAIN / WILLOW
- MAIN / COLLEGE
- LINDEN / VERNON
- VETERANS / SHEPARD
- VETERANS / PARKWAY PLAZA
- MAIN / GREGORY
- VETERANS / FT JESSE
- MAIN / RAAB
- VETERANS / COLLEGE

Injury Related Crashes

The total number of traffic crashes involving personal injuries decreased by 17.37%, with 176 reported.
In 2019 the Traffic Unit continued to focus on reducing accidents and assisting with public traffic concerns such as speeding, cell phone violations, stop sign/traffic signal violations, and school speed zones. The Unit addresses these concerns by remaining highly visible, responding to traffic complaints, conducting seat belt enforcement details, running radar and placing the speed trailer in highly visible and problem areas. In addition, officers gave traffic safety presentations to organizations and area youth, at events like the Safety Town program. Officers utilized their specialized skills as Traffic Crash Investigators and conducted Radar Education and Training for department staff. Due to staffing constraints officers from the traffic unit were reassigned to other shifts for the last half of the year.

TRAFFIC UNIT

1,651—Total Citations Issued
791—Speeding 10-20 MPH
319—Cell Phone Violations
76—Speeding Over 20 MPH

Pictured at left: Officer Dobson conducting an educational class at “Safety Town”
Problem Oriented Policing Unit

The Problem Oriented Policing (POP) unit was established in 2015 to look at innovative ways to address issues within the Town. The Problem Oriented Policing Unit is made up of four officers who look for effective, nontraditional approaches to handle law enforcement related problems within the Town of Normal. This policing technique requires the officers to be proactive in identifying underlying problems which can be targeted to reduce crime and disorder. Once a problem is identified, the Unit studies and analyzes the conditions of the underlying issue and then conceptualizes new strategies to form a response plan. After the response plan is complete, the Unit conducts an assessment to determine the effectiveness of the plan. The Officers of this Unit place emphasis on research and analysis, crime prevention, community and private interaction to reduce specific community problems and eliminate the need for future police calls for service.

Emergency Response Unit

The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is comprised of sixteen members, including one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, two sniper/observers, ten operators and one officer from the Illinois State University Police Department. Additionally, ERU utilizes the Normal Fire Department paramedics on all call outs. All members of ERU have received specialized training to deal with critical incidents. The day to day operations are coordinated by Team Leader Sgt. Jeremy Melville and Assistant Team Leader Sgt. Jacob Hoeniges, who are responsible for organizing monthly training as well as preparing operation plans for callouts. ERU conducts monthly training exercises consisting of high-risk entry, hostage/barricaded subjects and other critical incidents which involve rapid deployment tactics at a school or business. ERU members receive advanced training with firearms as well as less lethal weapons, and are expected to remain highly proficient with their use. All members of ERU are expected to maintain their physical health and must pass quarterly physical fitness testing to remain active on the team.

In 2019 ERU was called out for eight incidents involving multiple firearm, ammunition, and narcotic seizures. Additionally, ERU executed a search warrant following an armed robbery of a cell phone store resulting in the apprehension of the suspects and recovery of the stolen property.
K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit was established in 1994 and consists of two full service Belgian Malinois. The two Normal Police Department K-9’s are trained in narcotics detection, suspect tracking and suspect apprehension, along with building, area and article searches.

Officer Shane Bachman and his 5-year-old K-9 partner, “Thor,” have completed 2 ½ years of service as a K-9 team. Officer Bachman has been a K-9 handler for over 12 years.

In May of 2019 Officer Jon Cleveland retired his 10-year-old K-9 partner, “Barrett,” after completing 7 years of service as a K-9 team.

In August of 2019 Officer Jordan Kruger and his four-year-old K-9 partner “Kira” became the Department’s newest K-9 team. They attended Vohne Liche kennel’s handler course.

The K-9 Unit also serves as a liaison between the department and the community. The K-9 Unit conducted over 32 demonstrations for various organizations within the community, as well as 6 school searches of lockers and vehicles to help promote a safe and drug free environment.

Pictured at left: K-9 “Barrett” enjoying his retirement

Pictured: K-9 “Thor” and Officer Bachman

Pictured: K-9 “Kira” and Officer Krueger
The Support Services Division is a mix of sworn supervisors, officers and detectives along with civilian managers and staff members. The division is supervised by the Assistant Chief of Support Services, who reports directly to the Chief of Police. Support Services includes the Investigations Division, which consists of Criminal Investigations, Vice Crimes, Evidence Management and School Resource Officers. Support services is also responsible for the Records Unit, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Community Services Officer, Technology Officer, Accreditation Manager and Youth Intervention Specialist. The Assistant Chief of Support Services also serves as the training coordinator for the department.
The Investigations Division is led by a Lieutenant and 2 Sergeants who oversee multiple personnel. These personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Investigations staff assist the Patrol Division as needed. The division is responsible for all investigations. Members of the division have received specialized training in multiple investigative fields.

Criminal Investigations Unit

The Criminal Investigations Unit performs follow-up investigations on reported crimes, gathers evidence, prepares criminal cases, collects intelligence information and apprehends suspects who are responsible for committing criminal acts. Three detectives are assigned to general investigations, which encompass crimes from simple theft to homicide. Two detectives work financial crimes involving forgery, credit card fraud and identity theft. One juvenile detective investigates offenses which involve a suspect or a victim under the age of 18. Two domestic violence detectives work to provide follow-up and support to individuals experiencing domestic violence. Conducting criminal investigations often requires detectives to work in close cooperation with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as private industries to investigate and prepare prosecutable cases.
The Investigations Division is led by a Lieutenant and 2 Sergeants who oversee multiple personnel from both the criminal and vice crimes investigation units as well as the division is responsible for all investigations within the department and division as needed. The division includes 5 school resource officers assigned to Unit 5 schools as well as Chiddix, Parkside and Kingsley Junior High Schools. To better assist victims and members of the community when the need arises.

Financial Crimes

Two detectives are assigned to investigate Financial Crimes, including deceptive practices, forgery, fraud and identity theft. These detectives are members of the international association of Financial Crimes Investigators, the McLean County Financial Institution Security Association and also teach fraud prevention classes to local bank employees. In addition to investigating financial crimes, these detectives spend considerable time assisting victims and financial institutions with restoring credit histories. They also work closely with outside agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Marshal’s Office, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Postal Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Vice Crimes

The Drug/Vice Unit was formed in May of 1999 to address crimes such as illegal gambling and prostitution with a primary focus on illegal narcotic sales and trafficking. The Unit works closely with other drug Units in and out of the area (including Local, State and Federal agencies). The department is a member of the FBI’s Peoria Area Safe Streets Task Force and dedicates a detective to work joint cases with authority to enforce federal laws. During 2019, the unit seized narcotics with an estimated value of over $250,000. The Vice Unit is staffed with four Detectives and one supervising Sergeant and has a cumulative total of 30 years in narcotics investigation experience.
School Resource Officers

The School Resource Officer Program completed the sixteenth year of a successful and positive relationship with the Unit 5 School District. Police Officers assigned full time to the high schools and junior high schools provide support to school staff and work to enhance safety on the campus. In 2019 two additional officers were assigned to schools, giving all high schools and junior highs a dedicated school resource officer.

The five officers assigned as SROs work with school administrators to investigate potential criminal activity, threats to the schools, and work closely with school staff in all aspects of student well-being. The SROs strive to enhance the safety of Unit 5 Schools by working with school administration on refining and practicing crises plans and lock down procedures.
Property Management/Crime Scene Unit

The Property Management and Crime Scene Units work closely to identify, store and track all property and evidence recovered or seized by the Department. For an item to be admissible in court, its “chain of custody” must be maintained. This means evidence must be housed in a secure area, and each person having contact with the evidence is documented. This information is used later at trial to show the item is in the same condition as it was when first collected. The Property Management Unit has one full time sworn officer in charge of the evidence room and one part time civilian who assists with daily duties. Each item of evidence is logged and classified using a barcode tracking system. Once a criminal prosecution has been completed, the evidence must be returned to the rightful owner, destroyed or forfeited, depending disposition of the charges and the type of property seized. The Crime Scene Unit is responsible for the processing and recovery of evidentiary items discovered during the investigative process. The Unit offers certified expertise in evidence identification, collection, preservation and documentation. Evidence collected may include latent fingerprints, shoe impressions, hair, fibers, tool marks and blood among other items which may aid detectives in the identification and prosecution of suspects. The Unit is comprised of one full time crime scene technician and two shift level officers who respond 24 hours a day to situations requiring crime scene processing.

Crime Analysis

The criminal intelligence analyst is a civilian position whose primary function is to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant information related to criminal activity and officer safety. The analyst works to identify criminal suspects and crime trends in effort to provide tactical and strategic analysis to law enforcement officers. The tactical and strategic analysis is used to suppress crime and aid in the apprehension of criminal suspects. The analyst also functions as a support person for the detective units, provides intelligence for prosecutions and assists in decision making. Additionally, the analyst gathers and analyzes information that is used by sworn staff to focus investigations and resources.

On the State and National level, the analyst maintains a number of contacts in order to give and receive pertinent intelligence information. The information received is reviewed to determine its relevance to the local criminal activity and disseminated accordingly. Further, the analyst gathers information from local sources both within the department and outside the department. This information is also analyzed to determine relevance and disseminated when appropriate.
Training

Providing training in all aspects of law enforcement and public service continues to be a priority of the Normal Police Department. It is a vital and important part of delivering quality and professional police services to the community. The Normal Police Department is committed to maintaining well trained and professional police officers through innovative and contemporary training on a continual basis.

The training expectations placed on law enforcement have increased in recent years. In order to fulfill those expectations, training goals are established to provide the highest level of proficiency and education for all department employees.

In addition to providing training in core classes such as Law Update, Search and Seizure, Hazardous Materials, First Aid, Control Tactics and Narcan training, the department recognizes the need for additional, specialized training. Some of those topics include Advanced Field Training, Mental Health Awareness, Diversity Training, Tactical De-escalation, Student Safety Assessment, Domestic Violence and Dealing with the Opioid Crisis.

In 2019, significant time was devoted to state mandated training in both classroom and online settings. By the close of year 2019, the department was fully compliant with all mandated training requirements. The department provided a total of 10,585 hours of training to officers in 2019. Supervisors and Police Administration attended 1,659 hours of training in which 638 of those hours where management related training.

Accreditation

The Normal Police Department is an Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (CALEA) dedicated to the highest professional standards. The department received its initial accreditation in 1994 and has successfully achieved reaccreditation seven times, the most recent in 2017.

As part of the ongoing accreditation process, CALEA verifies the department’s compliance with specific standards through regular auditing of policy and practice. The commission verifies that the department has implemented updates to policies on an annual basis.

The department uses Power DMS, a powerful online software program to help track policies, training, and compliance. Law enforcement accreditation is a voluntary ongoing process and the department’s goal is to obtain our ninth accreditation award in 2021.
### 2019 Citizen Complaint Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURE OF COMPLAINT</th>
<th>2017 COMPLAINTS</th>
<th>2018 COMPLAINTS</th>
<th>2019 COMPLAINTS</th>
<th>DISPOSITION OF 2019 COMPLAINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Force/Excessive Force</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Proper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Arrest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudeness/Offensive Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 Proper Conduct 1 Improper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search &amp; Seizure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Improper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism and Prejudice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 Proper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Conduct (Other)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9 Proper Conduct 2 Improper Conduct 1 Ongoing Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of Rights</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above reflects the eight Citizen Complaint forms received in 2019, with five listing more than one alleged misconduct category or involving more than one officer. It is the policy of the Normal Police Department that each complaint alleged against the Department or its employees shall be investigated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Disposition Totals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfounded Complaint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart on the right side represents the total number of complaints filed from 2015 to 2019. The bar chart shows a slight increase in complaints from 2015 to 2019, with the highest number in 2019.
Community Services Unit

The Community Services Officer is responsible for responding to citizen requests for services outside of daily patrol operations. These requests include presentations to community groups, addressing neighborhood concerns, and providing education on various law enforcement topics and activities. The Community Services Unit conducted over 312 presentations to the community in 2019. Additionally, the Community Services Unit is responsible for organizing the Neighborhood Watch and Nextdoor.com programs; coordinating the Summer Youth Program; organizing recruitment efforts; coordinating “Coffee With a Cop”; acting as a point of contact for landlord-tenant relations; and responding to other community-related issues as they arise.
Summer Youth Program

For each of the last 19 years, the Normal Police Department has sponsored a week-long summer camp. Our goal is strengthening relationships between the Department and youth in the community. The program focuses on boosting self-confidence and self-esteem, learning the value of a team, leadership skills and building community pride. This past summer, activities included team building challenges, rock climbing at Upper Limits and a team Escape Room challenge. In 2019, the Summer Youth Program hosted 55 participants aged 9 to 13.
CRIME STATISTICS

Uniform Crime Reporting/Index Crimes

Index Crimes are also referred to as Part I Crimes. The Index Crime definitions require specific elements which must be met before the reported offense is counted. This qualification process insures that the numbers of reported crimes are uniform throughout the State, but results in a discrepancy between UCR/Index Crime data published by State and Federal Governmental agencies and crime reporting by local agencies, which typically count all offenses.

Index Crimes include, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated battery/aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and human trafficking.

Index Crimes have decreased each of the past 5 years.

Index Crimes are 8.09% below the 5 year average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Crimes</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Criminal Sexual Assault</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Agg Assault/Battery</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Theft</th>
<th>Motor Vehicle Theft</th>
<th>Arson</th>
<th>Human Trafficking</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Town of Normal continues to be a safe community, with reported crime at historically low levels. Innovative policing techniques and real time crime analysis assist command staff to effectively deploy departmental resources, resulting in increased crime suppression and suspect apprehension. Concentrated efforts on the part of dedicated staff have positively impacted criminal activity in the area.

### Crime Data

Changes in legislation implemented in 2019 relating to the mandated reporting of sexual assault incidents by hospitals, as well as enhanced awareness and education have resulted in higher numbers of sexual assaults being reported. The number of victims is believed to have remained relatively stable, however, more victims are seeking treatment and making contact with law enforcement as a result of enhance reporting standards.
Departmental Awards

The Normal Police Department recognizes employees who have performed exceptionally in carrying out their duties, service to the community and for acts of bravery. Nominations can come from any member of the department and are reviewed by the Awards Committee, who provides a written recommendation to the Chief of Police.

Life Saving Awards

On March 17, 2019, Sgt. Chiesi responded to 903 Beech Street for a call of a female who had collapsed and was unresponsive. Sgt. Chiesi located the victim, assessed she was in cardiac arrest and performed CPR lifesaving procedures until paramedics arrived on scene. The victim was transported to the hospital by ambulance where she later stabilized and recovered. Sgt. Chiesi's quick thinking and prompt actions were crucial to saving this woman's life. Sgt. Chiesi's response exemplifies the department's core values and is worthy of special recognition.

On April 23, 2019, Sgt. Wilson responded to 205 N. Linden for a call of a male who was unresponsive. Sgt. Wilson located the victim, assessed he was in cardiac arrest and performed CPR lifesaving procedures until paramedics arrived on scene. The victim was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he later stabilized and recovered. Sgt. Wilson’s quick thinking and prompt actions were crucial to saving this man’s life. Sgt. Wilson’s response exemplifies the department’s core values and is worthy of special recognition.

On May 27, 2019, Officer Cleveland responded to the southbound I-55 exit ramp for a call of a male who was unresponsive. Officer Cleveland located the victim, assessed he was in cardiac arrest and performed CPR and AED lifesaving procedures until paramedics arrived on scene. The victim was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he later stabilized and recovered. Officer Cleveland’s quick thinking and prompt actions were crucial to saving this man’s life. Officer Cleveland’s response exemplifies the department’s core values and is worthy of special recognition.
Life Saving Awards

On May 27, 2019, Officer Dobson responded to the southbound I-55 exit ramp for a call of a male who was unresponsive. Officer Dobson located the victim, assessed he was in cardiac arrest and performed CPR and AED lifesaving procedures until paramedics arrived on scene. The victim was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he later stabilized and recovered. Officer Dobson’s quick thinking and prompt actions were crucial to saving this man’s life. Officer Dobson’s response exemplifies the department’s core values and is worthy of special recognition.

Juvenile Officer of the Year

Detective Kendra DeRosa was awarded the Juvenile Officer of the Year award by the Illinois Juvenile Officer’s Association on June 14, 2019. The Juvenile Officer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions and dedicated service to juveniles within their agencies, local community and to the law enforcement profession.

Distinguished Service Medal

Detective Nikki Bruno was honored on May 17, 2019 for her volunteer service in the community by the Presidential Service Center with the Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is only awarded for more than 10 years of sustained volunteer work and can only be conferred once every 40 years by the Presidential Service Center.
Good Conduct Awards

5th Award
Chief Rick Bleichner
Lt. Paul Smith

4th Award
Asst. Chief S. Petrilli
Lt. Tim Edmiaston

3rd Award
Ofc. Todd Drought
Ofc. Jon Cleveland

1st Award
Not Pictured
Det. Jason Parmenter
1st Award
2019 Officer of the Year

The Officer of the Year Award Recognizes officers who demonstrate sustained performance, exemplary service to the community and dedication to the mission and core values of the Normal Police Department. Officer Jon Cleveland was nominated for his tireless work ethic, dedication to victims’ rights, work as a Field Training Officer and his commitment to community service through his work with the Special Olympics and the Illinois COPS ride for fallen Officers.

MC Strong Foundation Award

On Saturday, April 20, 2019, Officer Jason Hollenkamp received the MC Strong Foundation award for his efforts in DUI enforcement. For the second consecutive year, Officer Hollenkamp was Normal Police Department’s award winner due to his tireless commitment to removing impaired drivers from our roadways. Officer Hollenkamp has received specialized training in DUI detection and enforcement and in 2019 made 31 impaired driving arrests.

K9 Legacy Award

On May 24, 2019 Officer Shane Bachman was presented with the K9 Legacy Award by the NCEA (National Criminal Enforcement Association) at an event in Decatur, Illinois. The award from the National Criminal Enforcement Association was for Officer Bachman’s work with K9 partner Gunner and in recognition of their 9 years of service as a K9 team.
The Police Benevolent and Protective Association Unit #22 is comprised of 78 sworn officers. Every year our members participate in several activities throughout our community and within the State to raise funds for various organizations. Some of those organizations include: Special Olympics, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S), Big Brothers/Big Sisters, St. Jude, local athletics and our own community programs, such as Thanksgiving baskets and Shop With a Cop. Unit #22 is committed to making a difference in our community.
Illinois Special Olympics

The Normal Police Department is one of the most active departments in the State with Special Olympics. In 2019, the Normal Police Department collected $29,181.55 in donations. The Department fundraising efforts included participation in the Polar Plunge in February, Dunkin Donuts Cop on a Rooftop in May, the Torch Run in June and the Lip Sync Battle in September. Normal Police Department continues to support Special Olympics as one of the top fundraising agencies in Illinois.